

March 26, 1992

LB 401, 1147, 1184

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. We are now on the bill and, Senator Rasmussen, would you like to open on the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rasmussen has an amendment to the...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rasmussen, would you open, please.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have decided it would be worthwhile for me to go directly to the bill, although there is another amendment that I have out there that I want to do with this bill, but I think it'd be important to understand what we are attempting to do with 1147. Let me give you just a little bit of history here of why this multidisciplinary team is being proposed. Actually, it's not a brand new idea. In 1984 there was a Governor's Task Force on Violence Against Women and Children and one of their many recommendations was a team approach to child abuse investigation, as well as the development of treatment plans. And then last year Senator Crosby brought in LB 401, which was a proposal again for a multidisciplinary team for the purposes of investigation and treatment plans for...in the cases of child abuse and neglect and what we did over the summer was work on this and another element that recommended the same process was the Commission on Child Protection that was formed by the Governor and Mary Dean Harvey, director of the Department of Social Services, and one of their ten subcommittees was on protocol regarding child abuse investigations and treatment plans and they, too, recommended a team approach to handle these affairs. The intent here is to say that those people who are involved in investigation and the development of treatment plans should work together so the people from the Department of Social Services, the county attorney and law enforcement, plus other relevant people should work together as a team. What's been happening in most circumstances is that they all do their own thing and what happens is, because they are not working together, sometimes things don't get done because people think someone else is trying...is going to take care of it. It also means that there's been a good deal of confusion for the families that are involved because they are getting information and direction from so many different people. The other factor here, particularly